



Far East Council – Camp Okami 2026 Advancement-while-at-Camp Guidelines

FEC Guidelines for Troop Advancement and Merit Badges in Council Camp Settings

Attending an FEC camp is often one of the top highlights of a Scout's journey. The camp setting can offer Scouts opportunities to learn new skills and make progress on various advancement goals, including both merit badges to certain rank requirements. We are incredibly fortunate and thankful for our registered adult merit badge counselors and other volunteers who contribute to these amazing experiences for Scouts.

This document outlines the expectations and requirements for adult leaders and camp staff regarding advancement in council camp settings. All adults participating in FEC camps should be familiar with the information herein. We also understand that a *one size fits all* policy may not work in all cases for all Scouts, so we welcome questions and feedback to our council advancement committee.

Principles and Requirements

Advancement is one of Scout's Methods. It is not the Aim of Camp Okami.

Adherence to requirements as written: Camp staff and other adults at camp, regardless the circumstances, are not permitted to modify requirements. If requirements as written cannot be completed at camp, they must be done elsewhere, before or after the camp experience.

Rank Advancement

First Year program ("Trail to First Class")

Scouts enrolled in the official First Year program who complete requirements up to First Class will have their progress recorded by the Camp Director (or delegate). A paper form will be provided and returned to the Scout. This report should be given to their Scoutmaster or SM delegate for review and confirming entry into the Scout's official Scoutbook record. **Under no circumstances may camp staff, or anyone else sign a physical book of a Scout at camp** (other than a Scout's own unit leader or authorized member of that Scout's troop)

Ordinarily, Scouts recommended by their Scoutmaster to attend camp can expect camp-completed requirements will be accepted upon their return home to their unit, but the unit leader retains the authority and responsibility to finalize all sign-offs.

Other Rank Advancements

Camp can be a perfect setting to complete some requirements that might harder to complete at home, such as flag ceremonies, certain service projects, and swim test and



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water safety requirements, among others. We encourage both Scouts and adult volunteers to make the most of these opportunities for advancement.

If a Scout completes such requirements which is witnessed by a qualified Adult Volunteer, the Adult Volunteer may sign off on the **advancement form** (paper copy, available online) and return it to the Scout. The Scout should follow the process described above for submitting to their unit leader. Qualified Adult Volunteers include Camp Okami staff and members of the Scoutmaster Corps for troops. Adult Volunteers should record their name and contact information clearly when signing the advancement form.

Boards of Review (BOR)

Boards of Reviews are typically conducted within the Scout's home troop environment, by members of the Scout's own Troop Committee. A BOR can help adults in that troop evaluate the troop's effectiveness, and reveal ways it might increase the educational value of its outings and activities, or how to strengthen administration of advancement procedures. As such, adults serving on a BOR should be familiar both with the scout and their troop. Staff and other volunteers at council camps typically do not have this familiarity.

Therefore, as standard procedure, **BORs will not be held at camp**, *unless* the Scout's own committee chair or competent member of their troop is present (attending the camp) to chair the board, or the Scout's *Troop Committee Chair* makes advance arrangements with the Council Advancement Team.

These arrangements should be made and communicated prior to the start of the camp.

Merit Badges – Note to Merit Badge Counselors

1. Counselors must be Registered and Current

A counselor who has been approved for a badge may serve as counselor for that badge with no additional approval.

2. Reasonable instructor-to-Scout ratios

The Merit Badge Counselor for a given badge may set a limit on number of Scouts enrolled in the badge. We leave this decision with the individual counselors to communicate a class cap. Counselors should exercise discretion to cap any course at the number they are comfortable with.

3. Scouts must personally fulfill all requirements.



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There must be attention to each individual’s projects and fulfillment of all requirements as written. Each Scout must actually and personally complete them. If, for example, a requirement uses words like “show,” “demonstrate,” or “discuss,” then every Scout must do that. It is unacceptable to award badges on the basis of sitting in classrooms watching demonstrations, or remaining silent during discussions.

4. Partial Completions

Scouts need not pass all the requirements of one merit badge at Camp, or necessarily with the same counselor. For various reasons, a Scout might not or cannot complete all the requirements of a merit badge in the camp setting. In that case, the Merit Badge Counselor will record the requirements that are completed, and the Scout earns a “partial”. They can then continue working on that badge remotely with the same counselor, or with another counselor (recommended by their Scoutmaster, with assistance from district or council advancement committee if needed), up until their age of 18.

5. Prerequisites / Previous Work Must Be Documented

Counselors must not assume that stated prerequisites have been completed without sufficient evidence that the work has been done while the Scout was registered with Scouts BSA (or Venturer or Sea Scout). Pictures, initialed partial blue cards from other councils, or email from other merit badge counselors or unit leaders are the best form of prerequisite documentation when the actual work done cannot be brought to the campsite.

Questions or Comments:

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